

Mystery surrounds latest convoy

BAHRAIN (AP) — The whereabouts of another convoy of Kuwaiti tankers — and whether it even exists — was a mystery Wednesday as sandstorms swept the Gulf while shipping executives puzzled over conflicting reports from radio monitors and other sources. Some shipping sources have insisted for three days that "U.S. navy-escorted convoy was moving up the waterway while officials of the state-owned Kuwait Oil Tanker Co. (KOTC) flatly denied it. "Absolutely not," said one KOTC official, speaking by telephone about reports that a convoy was cruising up the Saudi Arabian coast within a few hours of Kuwait's offshore oil terminal at Al Ahmadi. Wind-whipped sand has shrouded the region for the last few days and hampered aircraft and supply vessels regularly chartered by reporters to make visual sightings of convoys. In Washington, the U.S. Defense Department announced the start of "imminent danger pay" of \$1.10 a month for U.S. servicemen in the Gulf. The pay will go to about 10,000 U.S. personnel, mostly sailors, currently in Bahrain, Kuwait, the Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and parts of the Gulf of Oman.

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King meets UAE air chief

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at Al Nadwa Palace on Wednesday the commander of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) air force, Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Zayed Al Nahayan, currently on a visit to Jordan. The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force Ihsan Shurdom. Sheikh Mohammad later visited the headquarters of the Royal Jordanian Air Force.

Arab information ministers meet today

TUNIS (Petra) — Minister of Information Mohammad Al Khattib arrived here on Wednesday to head Jordan's delegation attending the 24th session of the Arab Information Ministers Council which opens here today. The council will discuss issues related to Arab information and means of developing it. It will also discuss recommendations by the Arab Information Standing Commission which concluded its meetings here on Wednesday.

Syrian missile found in S. Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — The wreckage of an unexploded Syrian surface-to-air missile has been found in South Lebanon, a pro-Israeli militia television station reported. "Middle East Television" operating from Israel's self-declared "security zone" in the south, said the Soviet-built SAM-6 warhead was intact when discovered on Tuesday. Syrian military sources told Reuters on Tuesday that Syria fired two missiles at Israeli reconnaissance aircraft over east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley on Monday.

S. African miners take crucial vote

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Mining executives predicted an end to South Africa's gold and coal mines strikes on Tuesday as hundreds of thousands of black workers voted on a take-it-or-leave-it offer from white-owned companies. Union officials, however, were less confident, saying it was too early to judge the result of the ballot.

Kohl nominates Woerner to NATO job

BONN (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Wednesday he was nominating Defence Minister Manfred Woerner for the post of NATO secretary-general, which is due to fall vacant next year. He told a news conference that Mr. Woerner, a member of his Christian Democratic Union (CDU), had the expertise and international experience to become the first West German to hold the post.

Arab envoys in Cyprus meet over Israeli activities

NICOSIA (AP) — The Council of Arab Ambassadors in Cyprus met Wednesday to discuss Israeli intelligence activities around the Mediterranean island's air and sea ports, a council statement said. "It was agreed to continue contacts with the appropriate Cypriot departments on this issue," the statement said.

Stand-off continues in Italian jail

PORTO AZZURRO, Italy (R) — Six convicted killers holding 22 hostages in a hospital jail on the Italian island of Elba released one of their captives Wednesday but opened fire on a senior official sent into the prison to discuss their demands, police said. The police statement said the single gunman had missed the negotiator, one of a team of magistrates, but put an end to the first attempt to negotiate directly with the prisoners since the hostages were seized early Tuesday.

By Nermene Murad and Rania Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday received the Dag Hammarskjold Award from the Diplomatic Peace Academy for his efforts in promoting international peace and cooperation. Dr. Urbain Drix, president of the academy, presented the award to the King.

In a speech at the presentation ceremony at the Royal Court, Dr. Drix paid tribute to the King and said: "There is no head of state or country, nowadays, that is as aware as His Majesty, and Jordan of the need for a just and durable peace in the Middle East."

"The noble goal of peace is a worthy endeavour by itself; as is the need for economic and social development" that will assure a better future for generations to come."

Jordan's achievements and the King's efforts are recognised

world-wide," he added.

In an acceptance speech, the King said he considers the Dag Hammarskjold Award as "a recognition of the tireless efforts which the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has been undertaking for the cause of peace and justice in the Middle East."

His Majesty also said that Dag Hammarskjold, who served as U.N. secretary general and died in 1961 while on a U.N. mission in Africa, "tried to build a consensus around the United Nations as the forum where the nations of world present and discuss their cases, and peacefully settle their disputes. It is this legacy of international legitimacy which he sought to foster, and for which, among other things, he will always be remembered."

"It is with this spirit that we have been striving to find just solutions to the problems besetting our area, henceforth, our constant call for all the parties to abide by the tenets of international

al legality, and the principles of the United Nations charter," the King said. "This applies particularly to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Iran-Iraq war and the situation in the Lebanon," he said.

The King also emphasised that "any progress toward the comprehensive settlement of these issues will not only benefit the countries of the region but will be, in our view, a major contribution to world peace and international stability."

In conclusion, the King reiterated Jordan's full cooperation with the mission of the academy which seeks to foster world peace and international understanding and cooperation.

In an earlier interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Drix said that "King Hussein's name was suggested for the award for three years" and "we wanted to wait until our 25th anniversary since it coincides with the 35th anniversary of His Majesty's

(Continued on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday receives the Dag Hammarskjold Award for Peace (Petra photo)

King receives Dag Hammarskjold Award



Iraqi leaders call on Arabs to harden stand towards Iran

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq's top leaders on Wednesday called on Arab states to harden the stand against Iran taken at the end of this week's Arab League meeting in Tunis.

The leaders met in a joint session of the Revolutionary Command Council and the ruling Baath Party, chaired by President Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

"(The Arab League) correctly diagnosed the Iranian regime as aggressive, expansionist, wicked and malicious, targeting Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the whole Arab Nation," INA said, attributing the view to the Iraqi leaders.

In a rare show of unity, foreign ministers of the 21-nation Arab League on Tuesday gave Iran until Sept. 20 to accept a mandatory U.N. Security Council resolution ordering a ceasefire in the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

The Arab League slammed Iran for failing to comply with the July 20 resolution, which Iraq accepted. Its secretary general, Chadli Klibi, said he did not rule out a break in Arab diplomatic ties with Tehran if it failed to respond.

IRNA said the Iraqi leaders called on Arab states to get tough with Iran "whose aggression mounts as time passes, and which can only be deterred by a hard Arab stand."

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Weinberger: U.S., allies to send more military support to Gulf

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger said additional military support will be dispatched to the Gulf by the United States and several Western European countries, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

"It doesn't have to be a group under American command," Mr. Weinberger told the Los Angeles Times. "The important thing is to have increased capabilities ... in the area."

Last month, the United States began escorting Kuwaiti oil tankers through the Gulf to protect them from attack from Iran. Tanker traffic in the Middle East has been under attack from Iraq during their 7-year-old war.

Britain and France already have sent six modern minesweepers to the region.

Although he would not identify specific countries, Mr. Weinberger suggested that other European nations would soon be sending warships to the Gulf. The Netherlands and Italy are considering such action, the Times said, quoting unidentified Pentagon sources.

The secretary called the buildup of Western forces in the Gulf necessary to keep "international waters open and available for non-belligerent legal commerce."

Mr. Weinberger did not say how many more U.S. forces might be sent to the region, but the newspaper quoted unidentified

said sources as saying the navy is planning to add five high-speed hydrofoil missile patrol boats and the battleship Iowa has been alerted to prepare for possible duty in the Gulf.

The U.S. Navy is sending the Cruiser William H. Standley and the guided-missile frigate Rentz into the Gulf this week to replace two smaller ships, officials said Tuesday.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, say this change of warships is to maintain fresh crews in the troubled waterway.

They said the replacement of the cruiser Worden and the frigate Crommelin in the navy's Middle East force could occur by Wednesday.

The sources stressed the changes were "one-for-one replacements" and that the Middle East force was not being increased in size.

The turnovers began a week ago when the frigate Hawes sailed into the Gulf to relieve the cruiser Fox. The navy also is about to replace the aircraft carrier Constellation and its battle group in the northern Arabian Sea with a new group led by the

carrier Ranger.

The moves are tied to a navy policy that specifies warships should not be forced to deploy more than six months at a time.

The latest turnovers will maintain the Middle East force at a strength of two cruisers, one destroyer and five frigates. Those eight warships are performing the actual escort work for Kuwaiti tankers.

In addition, the command ship Lasalle and the amphibious helicopter carrier Guadalcanal are also deployed in the Gulf to support navy mine-sweeping helicopters.

The sources said Tuesday the

amphibious landing ship Raleigh was also scheduled to sail into the Gulf later this week, bearing a load of small mine-sweeping boats and Seal commando speedboats.

Beyond the turnovers, the navy also has dispatched a new group led by the battleship Missouri to the region. That group is expected to arrive in the next week or so and will initially deploy in the northern Arabian Sea and Gulf of Oman, just outside the Gulf, the sources said.

The Standley and Rentz are both based in San Diego and departed that California port on July 14.

Palestinian official escapes assassination bid in Lebanon

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Gunmen raked the car of a senior Palestinian official with machinegun fire near a refugee camp in South Lebanon Wednesday, police said.

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They told Reuters that Abu Ali Shahin, 50, the top political official loyal to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Lebanon, was wounded in the arm and his driver was injured.

The local head of Mr. Arafat's elite Force 17 group, Rais Al Ghoul, was killed in South Lebanon last week. Palestinian sources linked his death to feuding between Arafat loyalists and pro-Syrian Palestinians.

Ghoul, 38, had replaced Hassan Al Haiba, the previous Force 17 commander, who was killed in Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp last February.

About 80,000 Palestinians live in Ain Al Hilweh and other refugee settlements near the south-

ern city of Sidon.

One source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Shahin was hit twice in the arm and shoulder. The Palestinian driver/guard was hit by three bullets, the source added.

Mr. Casey overruled objections to individuals chosen by the White House to carry out the arms deals, the New York Times reported.

Mr. George's closed-door testimony Aug. 5-6 before the congressional Iran-contra committee was released Wednesday. The Times quoted a transcript it obtained in advance.

According to the newspaper's report, Mr. George told the committee he raised questions about Iranian middleman Manucher Ghorbanifar and retired Air Force Maj.-Gen. Richard Secord, who arranged logistics for the secret arms shipments.

Mr. George said he went directly to Mr. Casey with his objections after learning that Ghorbanifar was the only intermediary for dealings with Tehran.

"I said, 'Bill, I am not going to run this guy anymore,' which means in our language, 'I will not handle him, he is a bum,'" Mr. George said.

However, Mr. George said, Mr. Casey began to circumvent subordinates who objected to the plan.

Mr. Casey, a longtime friend

and adviser to President Ronald Reagan, resigned as CIA director in February after being hospitalized seven weeks earlier with brain seizures. He died in May.

Mr. George also was questioned sharply about his claim before another congressional panel in October 1986 that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had no role in secret re-supply operations to aid the Nicaraguan rebels.

The claim has since been contradicted by other agency officials who detailed their involvement in the covert operation.

(See page 8.)

Abu Ghazala: Arabs gave \$181b to Iraq

(Continued from page 1.)

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He said Egypt had given Iraq "some important types of arms and spare parts" but did not

specify what.

Additionally, he said, Egyptian civilian manpower has "backed Iraq's economy to bolster its domestic front. Egypt's sacrifice in the Gulf war represents many times as much as the money given by (other) Arabs to Iraq."

He said between up to two million Egyptians work in Iraq.

Egypt has been charging Iraq for arms deliveries, but Marshal Abu Ghazala said financial gain is not the motive.

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Lest the superpowers forget

EVEN though Soviet leader Gorbachev has ruled out recently an early summit with President Reagan during the forthcoming General Assembly of the United Nations, it seems a safe assumption that the superpower leaders will hold a summit in the coming months to crown the positive negotiations on the elimination of medium-range missiles by signing a treaty on these weapons. The Arab world will most certainly share the international rejoicing on that anticipated momentous occasion, but will be grieved to note that the foremost conflict in the Middle East will not figure highly, if at all, on the agenda of the two most powerful leaders.

Yet, the blame for this apparent downgrading of the Palestinian conflict is truly of our own. To begin with, we have wantonly allowed the war in the Gulf to perpetuate itself by failing to stand solidly behind Iraq during the past seven years. The offshoot of this Arab oscillation was that it allowed the Gulf war to continue unabated, to the extent that it has overshadowed every other major conflict in our region. And, further downgrading the prospects for an effective resolution of the Palestinian conflict, the Arab side has continued to speak with many voices on the issue, and, in that process it has confused both friend and foe on what it really desires. Thus, now one hears hardly a whisper of the peace process in the Middle East. Talk of the Middle East conflict resembles more the last breath of a dying man than the vigorous determination to resolutely come to grips with the crisis. Even Richard Murphy, the special U.S. envoy to the Middle East, appears to be diverting his attention to the seemingly more urgent crisis in the Gulf. Thus, he signals the rechanneling of U.S. concern away from the chronic Arab-Israeli conflict, which had hitherto occupied the attention of the U.S. policy makers. Now the Soviet Union appears to be joining the international bandwagon of numbness and insensitivity towards our Palestinian problem.

With the Palestinians under siege in Lebanon and in the occupied territories for so long, even Arabs have become cold and insensitive to the agony experienced by the Palestinians in diaspora. But, lest we become unduly saddened by the decision of the superpowers and the international community to put our Palestinian conflict on hold, if not in deep freeze, we must remember that it is Arab action that will resurrect our conflict and place it back on the agenda of the superpowers.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Another resolution on paper

WHEN the United Nations Security Council issued its Resolution 598 demanding an end to the Iran-Iraq war, we feared that this resolution would remain only on paper and could be turned into a mere subject for further consultations and statements. We feared that the resolution on the Gulf conflict would be given the same treatment as all the resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict; and we expressed fear that non-implementation of the new resolution would do harm to the credibility of the United Nations. Tuesday, the Arab foreign ministers ended a meeting in Tunis by issuing a call to the Security Council urging it to implement Resolution on 598. But this call would not serve more than a first step in a long series of consultations and statements. We do not expect the U.N. and the international community to take our call seriously since many of the Arab states are not serious in their backing for Iraq or for the implementation of the council resolution. Our call would fall on deaf ears in the United Nations since our Arab states themselves have failed to take a unanimous stand with regard to the implementation of the resolution and did not decide on boycotting the Iranian regime economically and politically despite the fact that the danger and the Iranian threats have reached our doorsteps. We have to understand also that U.S. and Western intervention in the Gulf would eventually invite rivalry among major world powers — not to protect our rights but indeed for the sake of defending their own interests. These major powers are not really concerned with stopping the Gulf war as long as it does not affect their own interests. What they really want is a continuation of the bloodshed in Iraq and Iran and at the same time sufficient guarantees to ensure the continuous flow of Gulf oil to their nations.

Al Dustour: Hopes for Arab harmony

ARAB foreign ministers have adopted in Tunis the minimum resolution expected from Arab states vis-a-vis the current Arab situation and the Gulf conflict. The ministers reached a resolution with which they voiced the Arab Nation's support for Iraq and the rest of the Arab Gulf states in the face of Iran's threats but stopped short of any practical step that can manifest such support. The foreign ministers issued a final communiqué expressing the Arab Nation's backing for Iraq in its legitimate defence of its sovereignty and its territory, and also for its endeavours to reach peace with Iran. They also renewed their total rejection of Iran's occupation of any part of Iraqi territory and demanded that the United Nations Security Council execute its resolution 598 to end the war. This resolution, though positive, can be described as a repetition of previous Arab League resolutions in which the Arab countries expressed their general views but without giving proper attention to or taking serious effort in dealing with the new realities which are serious and require immediate action. The situation in the Gulf is now totally different from that which prevailed when the Iran-Iraq war began seven years ago, and this should have been taken into consideration by all Arab countries participating in the Tunis meeting. However, the decision to keep the foreign ministers meeting open until Sept. 20, a deadline given to Iran to stop the war and abide by the U.N. resolution, gives us some hope and optimism.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel has its plans

ISRAEL has been massing troops and tanks along the Lebanese border in clear preparations for yet another aggression which this time could include the Bekaa region where the Syrian forces are stationed. All indications are that the Israelis are putting the final touches to a new plan for incursion into Lebanon. They are benefitting from the concern being raised worldwide about the situation in the Gulf and the on-going Iran-Iraq war and are hoping to launch a new adventure across their northern borders. At the same time Israel's leaders want to divert Israeli public attention from the current inter-party disputes and various local problems to external issues. A war against the Arabs, the Israeli leaders believe, can serve as the best means for absorbing internal discontent over inflation, high cost of living and other problems plaguing the Israeli society.

England and the U.S. in Palestine: A Comparison

This is the first part of an article reprinted from the Washington-based *The Link* magazine.

By W.F. Abboushi

UNTIL World War I, there was no such political entity as Palestine; the people of Palestine considered themselves Syrian Arabs. Their territory, much of it part of the Beirut province, had been under the Turkish Ottoman Empire for the previous four centuries.

In December 1917, the British army occupied Jerusalem, and by September 1918 the whole country was under British control. Until 1920 a military administration ran the country under General Edmund Allenby who had led the British forces into Jerusalem.

At first, the British divided Palestine into thirteen administrative districts; in 1919, this number was reduced to ten. Each district had a British military governor assisted by mostly British officials, along with a few Arabs.

By law the military administration was required to preserve the status quo which existed under

the previous Turkish administration until the international legal status of Palestine could be determined and a permanent civilian administration established.

In April 1920, the Allied Council of Four men in San Remo to divide the Ottoman Empire. Britain was assigned the mandatory power in Palestine. In July 1920, the military administration of Palestine was replaced by a civilian administration under a British high commissioner. The international status of the country was not determined until July 24, 1922, when the Council of the League of Nations approved the Mandate Agreement for Palestine, effective Sept. 29, 1923.

From then on, England's experience in Palestine was one of mounting frustration. The Arabs were almost in constant rebellion, while the Zionists were often violently aggressive. In the 1930's and 40's many of the Zionists, including Menachem Begin and

Yitzhak Shamir, who later became prime ministers of Israel, used terrorism as a political weapon, killing innocent civilians in a number of bombings such as the one in July 1938, when 75 Arabs were killed in a fruit market in the city of Haifa, and in 1946, when over 90 people were killed in a blast that brought down a section of the King David Hotel. In 1947 England decided to cut its losses and, in April of that year, it turned the whole problem over to the fledgling United Nations.

At this point the United States took over where the United Kingdom left off — with much the same results. Today Americans give away billions of their tax dollars each year in support of a Middle East policy which earns them the growing resentment of most Middle Easterners.

How did England, then the United States, two powerful nations, incur such hatred in an area so vital to their geographic interests? The answers are similar for both countries, for despite their different political systems, striking parallels exist in the way British and American politicians

handled the Palestine issue. British politicians, like their American counterparts, were quite sensitive to Jewish-Zionist influence, but were torn between domestic interests which argued for a pro-Zionist policy and foreign interests which dictated a pro-Arab policy. Usually both countries responded to domestic interests when these interests served their own self-concerns.

Within British and American politics, the executive branch generally was more sensitive to the country's foreign interests than the legislative branch; consequently, in times of international crises, it was the executive branch which tended to have an even handed Middle Eastern policy. Parliament, on the other hand, like the U.S. Congress, was far more susceptible to Zionist pressures. In both countries, the executive body most often served as a pressure group to deter the executive branch from adopting policies that were mildly pro-Arab, not strongly pro-Zionist, or ones critical of Zionist policies.

In the British system, the House of Lords was far less susceptible to Zionist influence than

the House of Commons.

Appointed rather than elected, members of the House of Lords were experienced people who spoke their minds with a fierce independence. Members of the House of Commons were elected and thereby open to influence. Arabs fared better in the upper house, where speeches were more objective, than in the lower house, where rhetoric and demagoguery abounded. [One thinks of Herbert Samuel, a British Jew and the first High Commissioner of Palestine (1920-1925) who helped bring about the Balfour Declaration of 1917. Yet, in the 1930's, Samuel defended the Arabs in the House of Lords and even opposed the creation of a sovereign Jewish state.]

The U.S. Senate is nothing like the British House of Lords. Indeed, within the American system, the Senate is the most pro-Zionist governmental body, more pro-Zionist than the House of Representatives and the White House. The reasons, again, are clear: the British upper house is not elected, its American counterpart is; the Senate has a small

ler membership than either the British or American lower houses; and Senate members serve six years as opposed to four for the British House of Lords and two for the U.S. Congress.

Apart from these structural-procedural differences, however, both countries have essentially representative systems of governing. Because of this, Zionists could employ similar techniques in both England and the United States. By putting together an efficient organisation and a constituency far more powerful than its numbers would indicate, they manipulated the democratic process to make it respond to the self-interests of politicians. Party politics and the electoral system were the vehicles by which they reached politicians, rewarding their friends and punishing their enemies. And the media was the vehicle they manipulated to reach the public, believing that in the final analysis public opinion was the decisive arbitrator of politics and interests.

What follows is an account of how England and America got bogged down in Palestine.

Broken promises: British-Arab agreements

DURING the First World War, the British sought to enlist Arab support in their fight against the Ottoman Turks. Beginning in 1915, eight letters were exchanged between Sir Henry McMahon, representing the British, and Sherif Hussein of Hejaz, representing the Arabs. In a letter dated Aug. 30, 1915, Great Britain promised Hussein:

In earnest of this [Arab military support], we hereby confirm to you the declaration of Lord Kitchener [then British secretary of war] as communicated to you through "Ali Effendi" in which was manifested our desire for the independence of the Arab countries and their inhabitants and our readiness to approve an Arab Caliphate upon its proclamation.(1)

The McMahon-Hussein Agreement, based substantially on the Aug. 30th promise, was concluded in 1916; the Arabs at once revolted against the Turkish in a crucial military campaign made famous by the legendary Lawrence of Arabia.

Following the war, His Majesty's government acted as though the agreement never existed. For 23 years, it laid buried in secret archives of the British Foreign Office. This action represented the second time the British had betrayed the Arabs.

The first instance occurred in relation to the Sykes-Picot Agreement. The British Government, which wanted to enlist Russia and the United States in the war, sent a memorandum in 1915 to the Russian minister of foreign affairs, M. Sazonoff, expressing the need to mobilise the support of a majority of the world's Jews for the Allied cause. The memorandum proposed the idea of an agreement to promote Jewish colonisation of Palestine in competition with the Arab population.

Representing the British Government was Mark Sykes, assistant secretary to the war cabinet, who suggested to the Russians that Zionism might prove the solution to their "Jewish problem" within Russia.(2) Next, Sykes persuaded M. Georges Picot, representing the French Government, that placement of the Holy Land under an administration favourable to the Zionists would draw the United States via American Jewry action to the Allied cause. Consequently, in 1916, with the ink hardly dry on the McMahon-Hussein agreement, England, France and Russia signed the Sykes-Picot agreement, effectively internationalising Palestine and negating the promises made to the Arabs.

A year later, Russia went Bolshevik, withdrew from the war and made public the secret agreement, which, needless to say, shocked the Arabs, who were continuing to fulfill their part of the bargain.

England still faced the problem of how to get the United States



Lord Balfour and world Zionist leader Chaim Weizmann in Tel Aviv in 1925

into the war. In April 1917, Lord Arthur Balfour, then secretary of state for foreign affairs, came to the United States. Balfour was convinced that if His Majesty's government gave assurances that the return of the Jews to Palestine had become an integral part of British policy, American opinion might favour entry into the war.(3) Other factors being relevant, on Nov. 2, 1917, Balfour, then the British Foreign Secretary, sent a letter to Lord Rothschild, a leading British Zionist, declaring:

His Majesty's Government view with favour of the establishment of Palestine as a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.(4)

Obviously, the Balfour Declaration conflicted with both the McMahon pledges to Hussein, which regarded Palestine as part of an independent Arab state, and with the Sykes-Picot agreement, which stipulated that the excluded territory would not be subject to the policy of the Bal-

country was to be international.(5) Nevertheless, the declaration — issued before the country was under Britain's control, more than a month before its army entered Jerusalem, and almost a year before the rest of the country fell under its jurisdiction — was embodied in the Mandate Agreement and approved by the League of Nations' Council in 1922, making it a sort of constitution for Palestine. In drafting the agreement, London was heavily influenced by the Zionists. In fact, according to an official British source, the first draft of the agreement was prepared with the cooperation of the Zionist Organisation in London, while the final draft reflected only a few "minor" changes.(6) However, these "minor" changes displeased the Zionists. One such change was in Article 25 which stated that "in the territories lying between the Jordan and the eastern boundary of Palestine... the Mandatory shall be entitled, with the consent of the Council of the League of Nations, to postpone or withhold application... of the Mandate".(7)

In essence, this meant that the excluded territory would not be subject to the policy of the Balfour Declaration. The excluded territory would be controlled by the League of Nations, which would be responsible for the welfare of the non-Jewish population. The Zionists argued that this was a "state within a state." Article 2 of the agreement specified two responsibilities for the British Mandatory. The first required it to "place the country under such political, administrative and economic condition as will secure the establishment of the Jewish National Home." The second required "the development of self-governing institutions" in Palestine and the safeguarding of the civil and religious rights of its inhabitants.

Article 6 required "the administration of Palestine" to "facilitate Jewish immigration under suitable conditions and shall encourage... close settlement by Jews on the land..." However, this obligation was to be fulfilled "while ensuring that the rights and position of other sections of the population are not prejudiced." Articles 2 and 6 became controversial in subsequent discussions of the Palestine problem. Briefly, Articles 2 raises questions about the extent of British responsibilities in Palestine. Are they equal? Article 6 raised the question of whether the development of the Jewish Home was compatible with the "rights and position" of the Arabs of Palestine. Also, did the guarantee of "rights and positions" include the majority "position" of the Arabs? For example, was the Jewish national home limited by the Arabs' majority "position?"

The Arabs believe both the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate Agreement violated their right to self-determination as guaranteed by Article 22 of the League's Covenant. The Anglo-French Declaration of 1918, and President Wilson's fourteen-point programme. Self-government, in their opinion, was meaningless without recognition of their

The World Zionist Organisation's proposal for a Jewish homeland in Palestine submitted to the Paris peace conference in 1919.

I say that the proclamations of 1915 and 1918 constitute a definite undertaking to the Arab community by Great Britain, whilst Zionism, as embodied in the Balfour Declaration, as implied in the Palestine Mandate, cannot constitute other than a direct repudiation of these solemn and authoritative undertakings."

Before the League of Nations could approve the Palestine Mandate, the House of Lords discussed it on June 21, 1922, (8) during which Lord John Islington of the Liberal Party submitted an important motion stipulating:

"That the Mandate for Palestine in its present form is unacceptable to this house, because it directly violates the pledges made by His Majesty's Government to the people of Palestine in the declaration of October 1915 [McMahon's pledges to Hussein] and the declaration of November 1918 [Allenby's Proclamation], and is, as at present framed, opposed to the sentiments and wishes of the great majority of the people of Palestine; that the people of Palestine was illegal and blatantly unjust. Strangely enough, this event was ignored by the British press, and later, by most scholars. The action of the House of Lords should have resolved the controversial issue. As we shall see, however, Zionist influence in the British press and the halls of power made this impossible.

During this same session of the House of Lords, Balfour, by now a member of the House, unwittingly resolved another controversy involving the meaning of his name. Did the declaration protect and guarantee the political rights of the Arabs of Palestine? The Zionists argued that the declaration guaranteed only the civil and religious rights of non-Jews, not their political rights. Said Balfour:

"I cannot imagine any political interests exercised under greater safeguards than the political interests of the Arab population of Palestine. Every act of the Government will be jealously watched. The Zionist Organisation has no attributes of political powers. If it uses or usurps political power, it is an act of usurpation."

For the Zionists, however, political colonisation was paramount, so for the next 30 years the Balfour Declaration would harass the British until, in 1948, they opted to pull out of Palestine altogether.

Notes:

1. Text in Jacob C. Hurewitz, ed., *Diplomacy in the Near and Middle East: A Documentary Record Vol. II (1914-1956)* (Princeton, New Jersey: Van Nostrand, 1965), p.25

2. The provisional agreement of this draft resulted from discussion early in December 1919 between Mr. Forbes Adam and Mr. Maitland, the Foreign Office and Mr. Cohen for the Zionist Organisation.

3. Text in *Palestine Government, A Survey of Palestine, 1945-1946*, Vol. I, pp. 2-11.

4. Quotes from the discussions in the House of Lords come from *Parliamentary Debates, Lords*, Vol. 50, 1922, cols. 994-1084.

5. For a further history of the British promises to Hussein, see W.F. Abboushi, *The Angry Arabs* (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press), 1974, pp. 102 ff.

6. Alan R. Taylor, *Prelude to Israel: An Analysis of Zionist Diplomacy 1897-1947* (London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 1961), p. 17.

7. Doreen Ingrams, *Palestine Papers 1917-1922: Seeds of Conflict* (New York: George Braziller, 1973), pp. 7-18.

No fuel, no electricity, but expatriate tourists vote Lebanon a hit

By Lucien George

Abdel Mousen Zalzali, the Arab League's assistant secretary-general for economic affairs, visited Beirut on Aug. 14 where he discussed Lebanon's critical economic situation with Lebanese officials. The Lebanese pound has lost 70 per cent of its value against the U.S. dollar over the last six months. Lebanese leaders want the question put on the agenda of the Arab Monetary Fund meeting in Tunis on Aug. 23 and taken up at the meeting of Arab finance ministers on Sept. 2, also in Tunis.

JRUT — That's it: the U.S. dollar is now worth almost 250 Lebanese pounds (LL). When fighting began in 1975, the dollar was worth LL2.50. Normal, no doubt, after 12 years of fighting. Yet in the spring of 1983, barely four years and after eight years of war, the dollar was still equal to LL2.50. That was the time of war prosperity. In the end, the Lebanese today tell themselves the exchange rate of LL85 to the dollar on Jan. 1, 1987 was parable; these same people who fought at the time it was hell, and they are now wondering whether war will come a time when they will dream of a dollar at LL250.

A country is not a rate of exchange. Lebanon is. The proof? Everything is seizing up. The Bank of Lebanon, whose governor has warned that its foreign currency reserves have dipped to a dangerous low, cannot offer the credits necessary for purchasing fuel. No fuel, no transport, but also no electricity, so no factories, no hospitals, no bakeries.

The collapse will not come today, but seems certain to do tomorrow.

The running down of stocks should result in various economic sectors grinding to a halt sometime between the end of September and the end of November. To buy a little more time, Electricite du Liban has already drawn up a

preliminary power rationing programme of six hours a day which is bound to become worse. As for hospitals, plants, supermarkets and other businesses, they may well have their own power plants, but they do not have the fuel to run them.

The economic paralysis comes on top of a political paralysis and they compound each other. "We're headed straight for disaster," chorus all the ministers, who do not govern, and all the militia units controlling bits and pieces of Lebanese national territory, but nobody of course admits to the least responsibility in this state of affairs.

Even before the problem of energy supplies became so acute (power cuts and gas station queues are routine), galloping inflation which reached 100 per cent in 1986 and as much in the first half of 1987 was threatening the Lebanese citizen in his everyday life.

Poverty is gradually making inroads among families as a minimum wage, which in 1983 — the last "normal" year — was equivalent to two-thirds of the guaranteed minimum wage (SMIC) in France, slips to one-fortieth of

the SMIC. But the dividing line is constituted not so much by wages as by the "dollarisation" or "non-dollarisation" of all or part of each family unit's resources. This is the real yardstick of measuring the financial situation in Lebanon today. Almost half the population may be estimated to have links with a foreign currency and, as a result, is saved, if it is not becoming richer. The beneficiaries are in three categories:

— Those who themselves have foreign currencies: 150,000 to 200,000 foreign currency accounts have been opened in Lebanon, not to mention accounts abroad belonging to Lebanese.

— Those getting cash remittances from abroad, however small they may be: a family receiving 500 French francs, £50 a month from abroad make ends meet with local resources; with monthly remittance of 1,000 French francs, it does quite nicely. Such transfers were pointed three years ago, or even a year ago, because they were too small. Today, they are changing the lives of their recipients and justify the sacrifices of expatriate Lebanese. It is esti-

mated that between 15 to 20 per cent of the Lebanese are in this category and receive remittances from Africa, America, the Gulf states and even Europe.

— Trades linked to the sale of foodstuffs, where the turnover is keeping pace, if not with the exchange rate, at least with the rate of inflation, and craftsmen whose services have suddenly acquired additional value. In these days when everything in Beirut is repairable.

What about the other half of the population? It is becoming impoverished, digging into its last resources when there are any left, or is already quite simply destitute. But as this is not a conventional Third World situation with a privileged two to three per cent of the population facing vast hungry masses, the equilibrium is still holding. But for how long? Is not Lebanon a land of every paradox and every accommodation? Does not this country which will soon run out of fuel stocks possess a colossal fortune valued at between \$30 billion and \$40 billion? And while three-quarters of this wealth happens to be abroad, are not Beirut banks holding over \$3 billion in private accounts?

Randa Habib's Corner

Three birds with one shot

EMPTY cans of soft drinks are everywhere. People find them handy, and they take them in their picnics or their drives. Most of the time the empty cans get thrown out of the windows, or simply strewn around in picnic spots. Fortunately, the problem of this new pollution is beginning to solve itself these days. Three dealers in Amman are buying empty cans and recycling the metal to fabricate cooking pots and other utensils. So now the children have found a new occupation; pick up empty cans and sell them to the dealer. You can see them, especially in the outskirts of Amman, carrying a big plastic bag and collecting empty cans. This way, the children are generating their own income as well as cleaning the streets. Above all, the children and dealers are saving the country valuable foreign exchange that would have otherwise been spent on importing aluminium and similar metals to produce cans.

This positive initiative came without any government directive or involvement of the factories that produce soft drinks. It is a process that took shape by itself for the general benefit. It calls for a similar attitude in other fields. Such initiatives should be encouraged.

What makes the Jewish lobby tick

The Lobby: Jewish Political Power and American Foreign Policy, by Edward Tivnan, Simon and Schuster, New York, 1987, \$19.95

WHEN America's United Jewish Appeal asked David Ben Gurion at the birth of Israel what the new state needed most, he replied: "What we need is Jews."

Israel did not get Jewish Americans in large numbers. But what it eventually did get was an almost unimaginable cornucopia of American dollars and diplomatic support. As Edward Tivnan observes, by 1986, "American support for Israel was at the highest level of support of any country at any time in the history of America. By 1986, Israel was routinely getting \$3 billion in annual economic and military aid, all of it in the form of non-repayable grants. Its economy was surviving mainly on this unsupervised U.S. aid and its place in international forums ranging from the U.N. to the International Atomic Energy Agency was secured only by U.S. backing."

Tivnan's lucid, lively and informative book is the record of how all this came about. Organised Jewish lobbying in Washington started modestly in the 1950s in reaction to the even-handed policies of the Eisenhower administration and a number of outrageous acts by Israel that needed special pleading: the bloody attack on Qibya, illegal diversion of the Jordan waters, start of the Suez war. The problem for Israel's supporters was that the "Arabs" in the State Department were familiar with the facts in the region and were thus less than persuadable about the justic of Israel's acts.

The shrewd tactic chosen by American Zionists was to bypass the State Department and aim its lobbying efforts directly at the more vulnerable members of Congress and the White House. Two organisations were formed: the conference of presidents of major American Jewish organisations to lobby the White House and the American Zionist Council of Public Affairs, which later became the notorious American Public Affairs Council, AIPAC, to lobby the Congress. It is AIPAC and its supporters that Tivnan spends most time with, and for good reason. The stunning success of Israel over the past decade to control Congress and avail itself of the U.S. treasury is largely due to the effectiveness of AIPAC and its influence over the American Jewish community.

The way AIPAC achieved the success is the most revealing part of Tivnan's story, for it involves what amounts to the abuse of democracy: intimidation of legislators, bully tactics on campuses, censorship, blackballing and a blatant disregard of U.S. national interests. Through all this, much of the American Jewish community remained distressingly mute in public, whatever its private reservations.

The core puzzle of Tivnan's book is how can Jewish-Americans with their enviable history in civil rights be so tolerant of the most flagrant of Israeli atrocities? Numbers of Jewish-Americans have deserted traditional liberal positions to justify Israel's actions, particularly its occupation, by embracing what would more accurately be called neo-fascism than neo-conservatism. Many continue to fail to see the harsh reality of what post-Begin Israel has already become — they see only Israel as the symbol of Zion.

This ostrich attitude in American Jewry has been increasingly noted by others too, most recently by Abba Eban, who probably contributed more to creating the image than anyone: "American Jews today are little bit behind the reality here. They are still talking about an Israel that can never be wrong. After the Lebanon war American Jews were a bit like the chicken with its head cut off. They were still praising the Lebanon war when everyone in Israel was trying to get out of it."

Tivnan throws down the gauntlet by concluding with a particularly poignant series of challenges to the American Jewish community and its lobbyists: is the community's pandering to Israel thwarting peace? Is its silence in the face of Israeli aggressions acutely encouraging Israel to lose its way in the community of nations? Will AIPAC's success in controlling U.S. policy to favour Israel, oppose Arabs and subjugate Palestinians, eventually lead to a backlash of anti-Semitism in America — for Jews the most tolerant nation since Muslim Spain? Tivnan's is an informative, if disheartening, story, meticulously documented with and underlined with a forceful challenge to conscience — Donald Neff.

Middle East International, London

CRC — humanity's light in the shadows of war

An ICRC press release

THE misery of war, so much darker wherever they may be, darker than the daily news throughout the world. The only light, although perhaps unseen by distant viewers, is a glow of humanity for countless sufferers from all warning sides.

Imagine an ambulance racing through a shell-torn town, a doctor tending a wounded soldier, a nurse cradling a deathly ill child in her arms, a man handing out packs of food to a starving crowd, a prisoner greeting a kindly visitor unknown to him ...

In all these scenes, the emblem of humanity is there: a Red Cross on a white ground often ringed by the words "International Committee, Geneva."

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is the founder-member of the universal humanitarian movement now including 144 national societies and their world federation, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The Crescent replaces the cross as the emblem in 24 Muslim countries. The international movement, however, is neutral in every respect and impartial towards all religions and political beliefs.

The ICRC is primarily the

guardian of the humane "rules of war" in the Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols.

Created and established in Geneva, the ICRC is international only in relation to its field of activity and to the worldwide sources of its funds. Staffed by Swiss citizens, it is registered as a private institution under Swiss law — and is just as totally independent of the Swiss government as of all others.

National societies, with more than 250 million members, are active both in war and peace in their own countries. They frequently take part in international aid operations.

Their League, based in Geneva, coordinates world relief after natural disasters such as earthquakes. This is a major sector of its liaison role.

Legacy of a battle

Henry Dunant, of Geneva, originated the Red Cross movement nearly 130 years ago. On a visit to Italy in 1859, he saw the appalling carnage left by the Battle of Solferino on the very day when the allied armies of France and the Kingdom of Sardinia fought the army of Austria.

The committee organised a conference in 1863 at which the representatives of 16 governments and four philanthropic societies laid the foundations of the Red Cross movement.

The Swiss government then

killed and 42,000 were wounded on June 24. The death toll rose much higher in the next few weeks as tens of thousands fell ill from fever and fatigue.

Helped by local women and children, Dunant did what he could for some 600 of the wounded who reached nearby Castiglione. Most lay all night on the battlefield, with thirst and hunger adding to their agony. Military medical services were hopelessly inadequate.

Dunant, a businessman with charity work to his credit, was haunted by the horrors which he had seen. In 1862, he was inspired to write "A Memory of Solferino" and this had an immediate echo of approval in high places in many countries.

His idea was to form national relief societies to give care to the wounded in wartime, while an international convention would support their work.

A Swiss "Committee of Five" — including Dunant, and later to become the ICRC — was set up in Geneva.

The committee organised a conference in 1863 at which the representatives of 16 governments and four philanthropic societies laid the foundations of the Red Cross movement.

The conventions, covering international conflicts, are to protect and aid the wounded and sick — the reverse of colours on the Swiss flag — was made the common emblem for aid to the wounded. Thus was born the universal movement of today.

The ICRC is concerned about the treatment of combatants taken prisoner and of civilian internees. From the moment of their capture or arrest, it seeks to improve their detention conditions.

Its delegates — as the ICRC calls its representatives — visit internment camps and prisons.

Then, in a confidential report, they ask the detaining authorities to improve conditions whenever this is found necessary.

The ICRC can also be called upon to negotiate and organise the repatriation of prisoners and civilian internees, with priority for the gravely wounded and ill.

It acts in the interests of civilians in enemy territory or in occupied zones, striving to prevent injustices. Medical and material aid is given to those in urgent need.

Another task is to help civilians — often many thousands, sometimes even millions — driven by warfare to flee from their homelands, penniless, hungry and sick.

The ICRC gives them the essentials of life, beginning with food and medical care. In many countries, special care is provided for the war disabled.

Through its Central Tracing Agency, the ICRC also makes every effort to restore broken links between the members of war-scattered families. The agency registers and transmits all available information about prisoners of war, interned civilians and those set free or repatriated.

It seeks the missing and informs their families when they are found. It writes certificates attesting to captivity, illness or death. When ordinary communications are cut, the Agency forwards messages between civilians separated by events and between prisoners and their families.

The committee meets in assembly about eight times a year to determine policy guidelines and supervise the whole range of ICRC activity. An executive board composed of the president, the vice-president and five committee members meets once a week to direct current affairs, together with top-ranking staff.

Funds for the ICRC come mainly from voluntary contributions by governments and national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies. A variety of other donations are also received.

Often unpredictable large-scale operations are funded through special appeals to governments and national societies. These bring in the extra money required for staff, transport, food, medicines and other relief supplies.

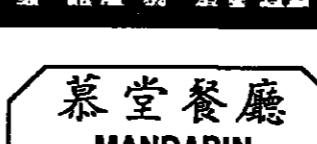
The world can take it for granted that the ICRC is on constant alert to do its utmost for victims of wars or internal conflicts wherever they break out.

Its watchword is to keep the more than century-old ideal of the Red Cross aflame whenever a cry for mercy moves the human heart. Without that light, what would be left for the sufferers except despair?

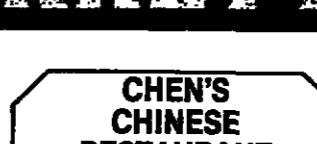
JORDAN MARKET PLACE



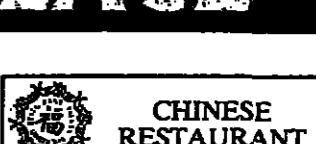
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Syria edges Jordan in Asian handball

By Rania Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In a heated match Wednesday, the Syrian men's handball team scored a marginal victory of 22:18 over Jordan. Both teams displayed skill and high-level performance to the cheers of 2,000 capacity crowd.

Wednesday's result leaves the standings of the Jordanian and Syrian teams contingent on matches they are expected to play on Thursday against the Taipei team. Should Syria edge the Taipei team, it will be placed in 7th position, and Jordan will move to the 9th position if it loses.

The Jordanian and Syrian teams gave solid performances on Wednesday, with the Jordanians at the beginning playing a fast and cohesive game.

They gave a remarkably different performance than that against the Kuwaitis, executing their coordinated attack plans

effectively, and winning the first half of the game, leaving the Syrians trailing 11:8.

But the turning point came half way through the second half with a change in Syria's tactics and with the Jordanian team seemingly getting tired. The Syrian team played tougher on the defence, and managed to make use of fastbreak steals, registering a four point lead till the end of the game.

In a rather lacklustre game earlier Wednesday, the Palestinian team beat Nepal 32:31 (and a score of 18:9 by the end of the first half).

Lacking the essential skills and

fitness that otherwise could have enabled them to qualify for higher positions, both teams gave modest performance that placed Nepal in the 11th position and Palestine in the 10th.

The Palestinian team used a 6:0 defence formation, occasionally moving into a 5:1. Its defence was incohesive initially, but as the game progressed the Palestinians were able to find a more effective strategy of exploiting the gap in Nepal's 1:5 defensive lines, scoring most of its points on the fast breaks.

Taipei team's victory over Jordan places the former in the fifth position and the hosts moved to the 6th position.

Also in the women's games earlier in the day, the Japanese team easily downed Syria 23:9 with a 13:4 score in the first half. The outcome of that game placed Japan in the third position and Syria in the fourth.

By deadline time on Wednesday, the games were still in progress and the results between South Korea and Japan were not out yet.

In the last of the men's games on Tuesday, Japan edged Qatar with final score of 38:12.

highway with only its parking lights on, struck the Volkswagen Caribe carrying the five women, the newspaper Diario de Juarez reported Tuesday.

Ramon Rivera of the Chihuahua State Highway police told El Universal de Juarez that the bus apparently was in the wrong lane.

"The five women lost their

lives instantly, the impact was so brutal," he said.

The unidentified bus driver fled the scene, Rivera said. There were no reports of injuries on the bus.

The uniformed athletes were returning to Juarez after a basketball game in the capital city of Chihuahua State at the time, officials told the newspaper.

Eyewitnesses said the accident happened at 3:30 a.m. (0930 GMT) Monday when the bus, speeding down the Pan-American highway with only its parking lights on, struck the Volkswagen Caribe carrying the five women, the newspaper Diario de Juarez reported Tuesday.

Ramon Rivera of the Chihuahua State Highway police told El Universal de Juarez that the bus apparently was in the wrong lane.

"The five women lost their

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FIRST RACE 4.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Hikmat Mohammad Hilal	Boshra	Owner	Dalallah	54.5
2- Thamir Hazzaa El Hadeed	Banoon	Owner	Suliman	54.5
3- Shakr Farhan	A Nael	Owner	Mahmoud	54.5
4- Maled Mohammad A. El Hady Ghazalan	Owner	Mwafak	53	
5- Mohammad Khalil El Maney	S Wamzih	Owner	Yousif	53
6- Mishal Mitab El Faiez	A Mishal	Owner	Yousif	53
7- Oudih El Kaisi	Ibn El Reel	Owner	Ahmad	50
8- El Dawesh El Bakheet	Shalhoub	Owner	Rasheed	50
9- Aia Mazin El Abbady	B El Hajar	Owner	A Jagheel	48.5
10- Faidit Mitak El Sawer	Azab	Owner	48.5	
11- Ghalib Mohammud Fhald	A El Ehour	Owner	48.5	
12- Mashhour F.A. Jnab	Abirah	Owner	48.5	
13- Khalat Hamad	B Hisban	Owner	Basil	48.5
14- Mohammad Maresh Milak	S Iskanjar	Owner	48.5	
15- Farhan Faish Oudih	El Ban	Owner	George	56

SECOND RACE 4.30 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1600 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Naja Wasil El Bharat	Wardan	Khaire El Din George	53	
2- Aly Fareed El Saad	Adjal	Khair El Din	50	
3- Ibrahim Kamal El Bharat	Dahman	Khar El Din Rasheed	50	
4- Wasil Kamal El Bharat	Naaman	Khar El Din Saad	50	
5- Nimir El Hmoud	Borkan	Mahmoud A. Jagheel	50	
6- Nimir El Hmoud	B. Rabadan	Mahmoud Kasim	48.5	
7- Nimir El Hmoud	Rimah	Mahmoud Mahmud	48.5	
8- Kamal Wasil El Bharat	M. Dina	Khair El Din	48.5	
9- Mamdouh El Hadeed	Hibah	Owner Yousif	48.5	

FOURTH RACE 5.30 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Faisal Awad El Azaiez	El Hanoot	Owner	Mousa	58.5
2- Ibrahim Hrash	Wafy	Khar El Din Saad	56	
3- Samy Haddadin	Saeek	George Yousef	55	
4- Samy Haddadin	Jarif	George George	53	
5- Mishal El Faiez	Nomas	Nimh A. Jaber	55	
6- Fawaz Anwar El Shnalan	El Mdalaith	Muhsin Kasim	53.5	
7- Sar El Din N. El Ijl	El Raayah	Owner	51.5	
8- Nimir El Hmoud	Baray	Mahmoud Mahmoud	48.5	
9- Nimir El Hmoud	Mahmoud A. Jagheel	48.5		
10- Kamal Wasil El Bharat	Mashael	Khair El Din Rasheed	48.5	

THIRD RACE 5.00 FOR SECOND CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Mohammad Suliman	M. Samy	Saad	56.5	
2- Yousef Ahmad	Ghareebi	Basi	54.5	
3- Mohammad Khalil	Owlah	Mwafak	54.5	
4- Mahmoud Musallam Fayadh	Nimr	Yousef	53	
5- Suliman Salman	Talaa	Mahmoud	52	
6- Musallam El Ktafan	El Saklawi	A. Amarah	50	
7- Sobhy Abboud Naife	Sail Raad	Suliman	50	
8- Sar Ghazy A. Jaber	M. Naja	Kasm	48.5	
9- Ziad Abboud Naife	Anan	A. Jaber	48.5	
10- Mohammad A. El Jali	Mad	George	48.5	

FIFTH RACE 6.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METERS

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Tariq Sarhan El Hwaidy	Farnoud	Owner	Dalallah	53
2- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Fozan	Abbas	George	50
3- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Sabalan	Abbas	Kasim	50
4- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Habbar	Abbas	Fawaz	48.5
5- Nimir El Hmoud	Midan	Mahmoud	50	
6- Nimir El Hmoud	El Hasna	Mahmoud A. Jagheel	48.5	
7- Nimir El Hmoud	Seheel	Mahmoud Mahmud	48.5	
8- Kamal Wasil El Bharat	Otumark	Khar El Din Rasheed	50	
9- Naja Wasil El Bharat	Shrabablik	Khar El Din Saleh	50	

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Norwegian leads Tokyo skiing meet

MINAKAMI, Japan (AP) — World-ranked Norwegian ski jumper Hroar Stjernen, competing on a chemical surface instead of snow, won the 70-metre FIS Minakami summer jump meet Wednesday. Competing in bright sun and 29-degree Celsius temperatures in this hot spring resort north of Tokyo, Stjernen leaped 87.5 metres and 86 metres for 218.1 points, making up for his defeat to Austrian Franz Neulandler in the first leg of Japan's Summer Jumping Competition in Nozawaonsen Sunday.

Balestrat reaches N.J. Classic quarterfinal

MAHWAH, N.J. (R) — Australian Diane Balestrat scored a major upset when despatched second-seeded American Zina Garrison in straight sets on Tuesday to reach the quarterfinals of the \$150,000 Jersey Classic tournament. Balestrat, one of the world's top players a decade ago and now ranked 26, scored service breaks in the opening game of each set and ousted the seventh-ranked Garrison 6-4, 6-1 in a 61-minute second-round match.

Chesnokov advances in Nynex Open

RYE BROOK, New York (AP) — Second-seeded Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union overcame a second-set lapse to reach the round of 16 in the Nynex Open tennis tournament. The 21-year-old Chesnokov, the top player in the Soviet Union, held a 2-1 lead in the second set before Moir rallied to even the match. The Soviet star relied on groundstrokes and a strong forehand in winning the third set. In other matches Tuesday night, John Ross of Florida, beat fifth-seeded Jamie Yzaga of Peru 6-3, 6-2 and Eddie Edwards of South Africa eliminated Martin Wostenholme of Florida 6-4, 7-5.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.	
One Sterling 1.6120/30 One U.S. dollar 1.3197/3207 1.8268/75 2.0592/0602 1.5040/50 37.96/98 6.1025/65 1322/1323 143.00/10 6.4050/4100 6.7100/50 7.0225/75 One ounce of gold 457.10/457.60	U.S. dollars Canadian dollar West German marks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lira Japanese yen Swedish kronas Norwegian kronas Danish kronas U.S. dollars
	age to 35 per cent, taking a \$94.9-million-dollar (\$446 million) loss for the third quarter.
	At the same time, Royal Bank boosted its protective fund by 1.4 billion dollars (\$1.05 billion) to 2 billion dollars (\$1.5 billion) or 37 per cent of its liability, incurring a loss of \$30 million dollars (\$47 million) for the quarter.
	The Bank of Montreal announced a net loss for the quarter of \$15.2 million dollars (\$3.61 million) after deciding last week to boost its reserves to developing countries by 753 million dollars (\$565 million) to 35 per cent of potential losses.
	Toronto Dominion Bank, meanwhile, has unloaded 411 million dollars (\$308 million) of its questionable loans to developing nations on a growing "secondary market" in which banks and major investors gamble on which loans eventually will be repaid.
	Toronto Dominion Bank and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce both increased their reserves to 40 per cent last week, incurring respective charges of 475 million dollars (\$35.6 million) and 450 million dollars (\$33.8 million).
	National Bank of Canada, last of the big six, has yet to announce its plans.
	The opposition has complained

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices were dull in afternoon business, failing for lack of interest after a firm opening on the back of Wall Street's record high closing overnight. Dealers said the early advance failed to attract follow-through buying in a market still hampered by low turnover and the weaker trend in sterling and government bond prices. The thinness of volume has been adding to the drift in prices. Wall Street's lower opening on Wednesday contributed to the gains after the gains open at the beginning of the week on buying in the new account. At 1447 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 23 to 2,244.2 after Wednesday's high of 2,259 and low of 2,240.3. The lower pound and government bonds unsettled the market and drew attention to the forthcoming release of U.K. July balance of payments figures on Sept. 1, dealers said. An unexpectedly large deficit in May balance of payments figures and a June surge in bank lending was behind the market's July to August downwards correction, dealers said. Investors therefore remain wary about the cycle of U.K. economic indicators beginning next month. But many analysts believe that the upcoming corporate reporting season will see a large number of companies announcing a rise in dividends. This in turn could attract fresh investment and buoy the market.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a good day to come to a meeting of minds with a person you usually don't understand. Give some thought to family members who are feeling neglected.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Something extremely profitable comes up in connection with someone you're fond of. Keep busy today. Idle hands...

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Try to use your artistic inclinations in your daily activities. This will make your day and evening at home much more bright.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be wary of an acquaintance who has an eye on your assets. Focus your attention on pleasing your family.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Take some time to find an artistic piece which will brighten your home. The search could be rewarding.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Pay attention to your communications with those around you. Invite some guests you enjoy into your home.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) If your assets were managed more efficiently you could be getting a better return. Expert advice is needed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) See what you can do to improve the living conditions around your loved one. Be sure to drive carefully tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Although you haven't appreciated your mate's friends in the past, getting to know them better may change your mind.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Changing your ways a bit would gain you the affection from your mate which you've been wanting.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Some public work done now will bring you a great return, as well as added prestige. Be positive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A new outlet for your pent-up energy will yield an interesting fringe benefit. Keep busy today and you'll be happy.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Home is the best place to express yourself today, but don't force your opinions. Keep your temper at work.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will have a very cooperative nature in both business and social activities. Your child will also have the ability to see through to the hearts of matters, whittling huge projects down to workable levels. Provide him or her with training in precision and artistry.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Now is the time to add some new dimensions to your vocational interests and activities. Relying on your intuition would be highly beneficial, as it's not likely to be wrong.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Show a partner that you are willing to make changes on an agreement, but be subtle, and take a subordinate position.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) There are many modern innovations which can eliminate some old-fashioned routines you've been distressed with.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be more enthusiastic about entertainments which your mate enjoys. Drive very carefully today and tonight.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) This is a good day to make any needed improvements to your property, or at least plan to have them done.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A bit of praise for one associate and a friendly attitude toward another can bring fine results for the days ahead.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You like neatness and order around you, but try to loosen up and add some charm and creativity to your surroundings.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) If you are not invited elsewhere, give a little party yourself and repay some social obligations this way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) The information you've been seeking can be gathered easily today. Show your mate how devoted you are. Drive carefully.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If you are very cooperative and accommodating, you can achieve your goals easily. Keep conversations private.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A prominent person who in the past has been unapproachable can do you a favor. Show gratitude for this.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be more willing to listen to ideas from associates, and you can pick up some really fine ideas which will help you.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Rely on your intuition when dealing with difficult persons. You can be highly romantic with your loved one this evening.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be constantly looking to the future while studying current conditions, and, as a result, will have great success due to readiness for any eventuality. Teach your program to reach decisions more quickly and not to take too long deliberating.

Canadian banks boost reserves on loans to developing countries

TORONTO (AP) — Major Canadian banks are more than doubling their default protection, three months after New York's Citibank became the first Western bank to boost reserves against uncollectable loans to developing nations.

Under federal orders, the banks have increased cash reserves from 10-15 per cent to 30-40 per cent on loans to 34 financially troubled countries, including Brazil, Mexico and Argentina.

The banks have loaned more than 25 billion dollars (\$18.75 billion) to the developing countries, many of which cannot repay even the interest.

To prevent a crisis, Mr. Michael Mackenzie, federal superintendent of financial institutions, asked the banks last month to follow U.S. and European lenders by at least doubling the 2.9 billion dollars (\$2.1 billion) they had set aside to cover doubtful foreign loans.

On Tuesday, the Bank of Nova Scotia quadrupled its debt cover-

age to 35 per cent, taking a \$94.9-million-dollar (\$446 million) loss for the third quarter.

At the same time, Royal Bank boosted its protective fund by 1.4 billion dollars (\$1.05 billion) to 2 billion dollars (\$1.5 billion) or 37 per cent of its liability, incurring a loss of \$30 million dollars (\$47 million) for the quarter.

The Bank of Montreal announced a net loss for the quarter of \$15.2 million dollars (\$3.61 million) after deciding last week to boost its reserves to developing countries by 753 million dollars (\$565 million) to 35 per cent of potential losses.

Toronto Dominion Bank, meanwhile, has unloaded 411 million dollars (\$308 million) of its questionable loans to developing nations on a growing "secondary market" in which banks and major investors gamble on which loans eventually will be repaid.

The world debt situation worsened considerably in February when Brazil announced it would stop making payments on foreign loans.

Mr. William Mulholland, chairman of the Bank of Montreal, has urged his colleagues not to back away from investment in developing countries, saying: "Brazil and Mexico are going to be around for a long time."

The opposition has complained

50 banks commit £5b loan to Eurotunnel

LONDON (AP) — Eurotunnel announced Tuesday that a group of 50 banks has committed itself to a £5 billion (\$8.1 billion) loan to the Anglo-French consortium to partly finance the planned rail tunnel under the English Channel.

The loan was announced months ago but the last of the banks finally committed themselves this week, the British co-chairman of the project, Mr. Alastair Morton, said at a news conference.

Eurotunnel is a consortium of French and British construction companies and banks building the tunnel, on which construction has begun.

The loan is led managed by Banque Indosuez, Banque Nationale de Paris and Credit Lyonnais, all of France, and by Midland Bank Plc and National Westminster Bank Plc, both of Britain. The lead banks are each committing £170 million (\$275 million).

Within the past two weeks, Britain's other major banks have decided to join the syndication; Mr. Morton said. Barclays Bank Plc and Lloyds Bank Plc committed £128 million (207 million) each and Standard Chartered Plc committed £60 million (97 million).

Credit National, a French government-owned long-term industrial investment bank, has also

joined and is underwriting £60 million (\$97 million).

Altogether, French and British banks account for about 15 per cent each of the syndication. Japanese banks a little over 25 per cent, West German banks about 12 per cent, North American banks about seven per cent and Arab banks about five per cent. Dutch, Italian, Swiss, Norwegian and Bahraini banks are also taking part.

The £5 billion (\$8.1 billion) loan is an 18-year credit with an interest rate of one percentage point to 1 1/4 percentage point over London Inter Bank Offered Rate, or LIBOR, which currently stands at 7 1/16 per cent and 7 3/4 per cent.

Mr. Morton said he felt the spread possibly was "generous" to the banks but he said it "reflects the start-up nature of the project."

Mr. Morton said Eurotunnel will seek to refinance the loan within two years of the tunnel's planned opening in 1993.

Eurotunnel won't be able to draw on its credit until after completion of a £750 million (\$1.2 billion) share issue scheduled for November.

About £300 million (486 million) of the issue will be sold in London and about the same amount in Paris, with the rest spread around the rest of Europe, Japan and North America.

Filipinos stage national strike

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Police clashed with protesters in Manila and Cebu City and opened fire on others in a town near the capital as thousands joined a national strike Wednesday against fuel price hikes. At least 127 were arrested nationwide.

Militants told some 6,000 people at a rally near the presidential palace that the strike would continue Thursday. The crowd cheered the announcement and shouted, "strike, strike."

The strike was spearheaded by transport workers affiliated with the radical May 1st Movement demanding a complete rollback of fuel prices that the government increased by 18 per cent on Aug. 14.

NCR agrees to pay fine for ties with Arab boycott

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Commerce Department said Tuesday it had imposed a \$381,000 penalty on computer maker NCR for 266 alleged instances of cooperating with the Arab boycott of Israel, the biggest such penalty in the 10-year history of U.S. anti-boycott laws.

The department said NCR neither admitted nor denied the alleged violations under the export administration act and agreed to pay the penalty.

Between 1982 and 1985, nine foreign subsidiaries of the Dayton, Ohio-based company allegedly provided information to Arab League countries involving their business relations with countries and people on the League's boycott list, the department said.

The department also said that on 10 occasions, NCR subsidiaries allegedly agreed to comply with the Arab boycott of Israel and individuals and companies doing business with the Jewish state.

Lira banknotes decorate home of Lebanese

BEIRUT (R) — A man has covered his war-scarred walls with Lebanon's devalued banknotes after he found that wallpaper would be four times more costly than the local lira.

Beirut's Al Safr newspaper reported the event a few hours before the central bank reported that the lira had plummeted to a new low against the U.S. dollar.

It said Mr. Suheil Karouni from the southern port of Tyre had covered his walls, damaged by Israeli artillery fire, with one and five-lira notes for the equivalent of \$18 compared with \$76 for wallpaper.

But it added that he intended to use the notes if the Lebanese currency should ever recover its former value.

The central bank set a closing price of 287.00 liras (286.00-288.00) to the dollar Wednesday down 19.50 liras from the last official close of 267.50 (265.00-270.00) on Friday.

"What do you expect?" said one dealer. "There's panic in the market. The more people hear the pound is falling, the more they rush to buy dollars."

A mother of three small children burst into tears when she heard the latest closing price. "My husband just cannot afford to feed us properly any more," she said.

The cost of many basic consumer items is estimated to have risen by about 300 per cent this year, largely because of the lira's collapse.

Lukman summons OPEC committees

LAGOS (R) — OPEC, acting to deal with the threat of a new glut and sliding crude oil prices, Tuesday summoned meetings for Sept. 7 of key committees that monitor production and prices.

The president of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Oil Minister Riwal Lukman of Nigeria, said here that the talks would be at OPEC headquarters in Vienna.

"I have already asked the secretariat in Vienna to convene a meeting of the committee of five (Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Venezuela, Algeria and Nigeria) and the committee of three (Indonesia, Venezuela and Nigeria) for Monday, Sept. 7, 1987," he told a news conference.

His announcement followed a sharp drop in oil prices of around \$3 a barrel in recent weeks.

The oil price has weakened in recent days as tensions over the crisis in the Gulf have abated.

Earlier, worried by the crisis, oil companies seemed eager to absorb into emergency stocks a rising volume of oil being pumped by OPEC. But now, that oil simply seems destined to hang on the market.

The Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), an authoritative Nicosia-based industry newsletter, said that OPEC output in August was around 19.7 million barrels daily.

OPEC's self-imposed ceiling is only 16.6 million.

Several OPEC members have exceeded mandated quotas. Some have been Gulf states apparently anxious to get oil to the market in case the tanker war hots up — industry sources list the United Arab Emirates, Iran and Kuwait among them.

Founder members of OPEC including Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, and also Iran, had telecued Mr. Lukman urging that something be done to mop up the over-supply before prices crash.

Traders' perception that a new war was in prospect sent the price of Britain's North Sea oil down to \$17.48 a barrel for October delivery, its lowest since April, although it edged up a little later.

OPEC is trying to peg prices at \$18. The group is anxious to avoid a replay of last summer when an earlier bout of overproduction sent prices crashing from \$30 to below \$20 a barrel.

Several market analysts said at the weekend that they believed OPEC had learned its lesson from last summer and that it would soon act to curb the developing over-supply — a prediction apparently borne out by Mr. Lukman's move Tuesday.

Crude oil prices on the spot market strengthened slightly Tuesday after word that OPEC was taking some action. North Sea Brent crude traded for October traded at \$17.89.

The OPEC committee of five oil ministers monitors spot oil price movements. The committee of three ministers is designed to see that members comply with assigned output quotas.

Mr. Lukman Tuesday insisted that the overproduction was way below the published estimates of

Communist rebels attack Philippine business targets

MANILA (R) — Communist rebels attacked a police station, a factory and a banana plantation in the Philippines, killing a policeman and a militiaman, the military said Wednesday.

On Manila's second guerrilla front, the leader of the country's largest Muslim rebel group called for the resumption of peace talks.

In a telephone call to his headquarters in the southern Philippines from Saudi Arabia, Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) leader Nur Misuari said he would welcome a new initiative from President Corazon Aquino to restart stalled talks on autonomy for Muslim-dominated provinces in the south.

Sixty armed men, believed to be members of the New People's Army, raided a cement factory about 80 kilometers south of Manila Tuesday night. They killed a policeman and escaped with dynamite, detonator cords, blasting caps and firearms, armed forces Capt. Anselmo Cabingan said.

In the central town of Toledo

been executed, 10 released and four were still being held.

Meanwhile a Muslim warlord elected to congress said Wednesday the best way to end a wave of kidnappings that has swept his province is to kill kidnappers and abduct their relatives.

"We must kill them to teach them a lesson," Mohammad Ali Dimaporo said in an interview on the local radio stations DXIC and DXWG. "The best way to pressure them to release their victims is to snatch their relatives also."

"It is not a sin ... It is even endorsed by the Koran," added Mr. Dimaporo. He had denied charges of involvement in previous kidnappings allegedly staged to destabilize President Corazon Aquino's government.

Mr. Dimaporo, a staunch supporter of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos, had dominated politics in Lanao Del Sur province for decades until Mrs. Aquino removed him as provincial governor following Marcos' ouster in February 1986.

Officials said nearly 150 people had died of diarrhea, dysentery and malaria in northern Bangladesh, the worst flooded area.

Mr. Islam said the Foreign Ministry had stopped all transfers of its diplomats abroad and was taking other austerity measures to cut costs by 10 per cent and divert savings to a relief fund.

The government has imposed restrictions in inviting more than 50 guests to wedding ceremonies and urged people to shun expensive festivities.

Mr. Islam said the floods, Bangladesh's worst for 40 years, have killed 600 people, affected nearly 20 million, destroyed 1.5 million tonnes of crops and made more than one million people homeless.

The secret testimony released Tuesday quoted Mr. Fiers as saying the late CIA director, William Casey, told him nothing illegal was going on.

Mr. Fiers said he could not discount testimony from Oliver North. Col. North said Mr. Casey had known and approved of the possibly illegal diversion.

"I wouldn't want to bet on it one way or another," Mr. Fiers said in 300 pages of previously secret testimony. "From where I stand, I think there was a lot of truth in Col. North's testimony."

Mr. Fiers also indicated Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) helicopters may have been used to fly arms to the rebels in early 1986 at a time Congress had banned such aid. Committee sources said this showed the CIA was more directly involved in resupplying the contras than had previously been made public.

He said he urged the administration to tell Congress about the scandal but appeared to suggest he had run into objections from Secretary of State George Shultz.

Documents released at the same time show that congressional investigators found no evidence of drug trafficking by the Nicaraguan rebels.

That conclusion was revealed in a memo following a review of the contras' financial records, in-

CIA officer was aware of U.S. arms drops to contras

WASHINGTON (AP) — A high-ranking CIA officer acknowledged Congress he was aware lethal supplies were being air-dropped to the Nicaraguan contras with U.S. assistance, according to the declassified testimony.

But he later listened silently as superiors misled Congress about the government's role, the chief of the agency's Central American Task Force, Alan Fiers, said.

He said he provided direction for U.S. assistance in lethal material drops to contras fighting on Nicaragua's southern front in 1986.

Mr. Fiers said he tried to remain within the strictures of the congressional ban on U.S. military aid, and he said the changing language of the Boland Amendment bans caused him to pull back CIA involvement in the air drops in the spring of 1986.

A transcript of his testimony was released by the Joint Congressional Iran-Contra Investigating Committees, which questioned Fiers and two other CIA officers in secret sessions in early August.

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6 students hurt as police open fire during Panama protests

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — Riot police fired tear gas and birdshot at students protesting the military-backed government as hundreds of lawyers and law students marched on the supreme court demanding respect for human rights.

Witnesses said at least six students were wounded slightly in the campus protest Tuesday.

Meanwhile, journalists planned a protest Wednesday afternoon against the government's closure last month of three opposition newspapers and two radio stations.

It was the second straight day police were called to break up a protest at the University of Panama's downtown campus, where students burned trash and cars to barricade surrounding streets.

The campus has been a centre for more than two months of protests against the government of President Eric Arturo Delvalle and the chief of the Panama defence forces, Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Gen. Noriega was accused pub-

licly in early June by his former second-in-command of being linked to political killings, election fraud and drug trafficking.

On Monday, students burned five government cars and blocked streets for about nine hours before police moved in with tear gas.

Students seized three government cars as they approached the country. He called the decision "a gesture of good will."

Named to the commission were Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo, the Archbishop of Managua, and outspoken government critic, as representative of the Roman Catholic Church.

The government's representative is Vice President Sergio Ramirez, and the representative of 11 opposition political parties in Mauricio Diaz, president of the Popular Social Christian Party. Gustavo Parajon, president of the Evangelical Committee for Development, was named to fill the seat reserved for an outstanding citizen not in the government or from the party in power.

Mr. Ortega said he hoped the committee would be a step toward ending the war against the U.S.-backed contra rebels, noting both sides are Nicaraguans and "both are victims of the policies of the North American government."

Formation of the national commission is one of the elements of a peace plan signed on Aug. 7 by Mr. Ortega and the presidents of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica.

They are to verify compliance with commitments in the plan on amnesty, ceasefires, democratic reforms and free elections.

Nicaragua is the first nation signing the accord to establish a commission under the plan, aimed at ending the Nicaraguan war and the war in El Salvador against leftist rebels.

Mr. Ortega's announcement follows U.S. President Ronald Reagan's speech Monday night over the contras' clandestine Radio Liberation in which he said the United States would continue supporting the rebels.

The broadcast, repeated several times, was jammed by the

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦95 ♦83 ♠Q10983 ♣AKQ10
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦8 ♠K1076 ♠QJ853 ♣J72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A8 ♠AKQ632 ♠AQ ♣KQJ
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What action do you take?

Countries, agencies offer aid to Bangladesh

DHAKA (Agencies) — Flood-ravaged Bangladesh announced money-saving measures Wednesday to fund a fight against hunger and disease and said 15 countries and international agencies had offered emergency help.

"Our friendly countries are gradually coming forward with financial support. We are also getting anxious queries from many others," Bangladesh's Foreign Secretary, Nazrul Islam told a news briefing.

He said 15 countries and international agencies have pledged 143,000 tonnes foodgrain and \$600,000 in cash. Red Cross societies and World Council of Churches from 13 countries have offered help worth another \$300,000.

Officials said nearly 150 people had died of diarrhea, dysentery and malaria in northern Bangladesh, the worst flooded area.

Mr. Islam said the Foreign Ministry had stopped all transfers of its diplomats abroad and was taking other austerity measures to cut costs by 10 per cent and divert savings to a relief fund.

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The figures are more than double previous estimates from the states of Assam, Bihar and West Bengal.

Meanwhile four-year-old Cecilia Cichan, the only survivor aboard Northwest Airlines Flight 255, has been told her parents and brother died in the crash. But she didn't understand she would never see them again, relatives said.

The safety board is heading up the investigation of the crash of a Northwest MD-80 jetliner shortly after takeoff from Detroit Metropolitan Airport on Aug. 16.

The disaster, the second worst in U.S. aviation history, killed 154 people in the aircraft and two on the ground, the Wayne County Medical Examiner said.

The sole survivor was a four-year-old girl found clutching at the arms of her dead mother.

The child has been gaining strength although she remained in serious condition at the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor, said hospital spokesman John Turck.

Turck said no decision has been made on who will care for Cecilia when she is released from the hospital.

Cecilia's grandparents, godparents and other relatives have been at the hospital with her since the crash on Aug. 16.

"Preliminary data shows that it (the alarm) was not disconnected. But the evidence is not 100 percent conclusive and we are making additional tests," said a safety

"We shall always stand by the flood-hit people," he said at his last stop in Bihar.

In New Delhi, parliament was told Tuesday that heavy flooding in three north eastern states has taken the lives of 401 people and damaged a half million homes.

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